(5) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.

(6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

**Quota Regime in Textile Exports**

890. SHRI K. KALAVANKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to remove quota regime in textile export market;

(b) if so, Government's plans in this regard; and

(c) the other steps taken to give benefit to textile exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Under the Agreement on Textile & Clothing, which is in effect from 1-1-1995, the quotas by importing developed countries, i.e., USA, Canada and the countries of European Union, are getting phased out. These will get phased out completely by 31.12-2004.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to benefit exporters. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:—

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.

(ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crores.

(iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.

(v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

**Closure of Textile Mills**

891. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of textile mills closed during the year ending March, 1999;

(b) the number of spinning mills, out of them;

(c) the reasons for their sickness; and

(d) the steps proposed to tide over the crisis in the textile industry and to boost textile exports, to help mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) During the year ending March, 1999, ninety three (93) mills were closed. These were cotton and man made fibre textile mills in non SSI sector.

(b) Out of 93 closed mills, there were 80 spinning mills reported as closed during 1998-99.